

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following particulars relate to the year 1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Clerk: Part time.

Medical Officer. Part time.

F. Metcalfe. Cert R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION A.Statistics and Social Condition of the Area.

Area (in acres)	72,000 (approx)
R.G's estimate of residential population (mid 1941)	12,300
No. of inhabited houses	3,516
Rateable value	£52,184
Sum represented by penny rate	£225

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<u>Live Births</u>	186	89	97	Birth Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	178	85	93	of the population
Illegitimate	8	4	4	15.12
<u>Still Births</u>	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 of all
Legitimate	7	4	3	births 37.65
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
<u>Deaths</u>	143	64	79	Death rate per 1,000
				of the population,
				11.62

Death from puerperal causes:

(Headings from the R.G's. short list).

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis, Nil.

No. 30. Other puerperal causes Nil.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	43.01
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39.32
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	nil

SECTION B

1. Public Health Staff. - See the beginning of the Report.

2. (a) Laboratory facilities as in previous years.

43 Swabs were sent for the diagnosis of Diphtheria,  
28 were negative and 15 positive.

9 Sputa were sent for the detection of Tuberculosis  
all were negative.

2 Specimens of blood sent for detection of typhoid.  
All negative.

1 Blood specimen for Wasserman reaction, negative.

3 Swabs for Vincents angina, 1 positive, 2 negative.

(b) Ambulance facilities. As in previous years, & satisfactory.

(c) Nursing in the Home. As in previous years and not under  
the control of the Council.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres. As in previous years, under  
the control of the Nursing Association of the County Council.

(e) Hospitals. As in previous years.

# SECTIONS C. D. & E.

See the Sanitary Inspector's accompanying report.

## SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

There was again a good many cases of Diphtheria, chiefly in Sowerby. Several carrier cases were isolated and kept under observation till negative Swabs were obtained. Seventeen cases were notified.

11 Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred widespread through the area and mostly of a mild nature.

1 Case of Erysipelas, 6 of Measles and 9 of Whooping Cough were notified.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1942.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	11	9	nil
Diphtheria	17	17	2
Pneumonia	11	-	10
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-

<u>Age.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Diph-theria</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>	<u>Erysipelas</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia</u>
1-2	-	-	1	-	-
2-3	1	-	-	-	-
3-4	-	3	-	-	-
4-5	-	1	-	-	-
5-10	6	3	1	-	-
10-15	1	4	1	-	-
15-20	1	2	-	-	-
20-35	1	3	2	-	-
35-45	-	-	2	-	-
45-65	1	1	2	1	-
65 & Over	-	-	2	-	-
Total.	11	17	11	1	-

(3) Cancer. No action taken.

(4) (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. As in previous years.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	2	-	-	1	-	-



CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT 1942.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATHS</u>		<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
All Causes		64	79
Whooping Cough	....	-	-
Diphtheria	....	1	1
Influenza	....	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	-	1
Cancer	....	4	8
Diabetes	....	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	....	4	12
Heart Diseases	....	24	33
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	2	3
Bronchitis	....	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	....	9	1
Other Respiratory diseases	....	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	....	1	-
Appendicitis	....	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	....	-	1
Nephritis	....	4	3
Congenital Debility & Pre Birth	....	1	3
Suicide	....	1	-
Other Violence	....	4	1
Other Defined diseases	....	2	6
Diseases ill defined or not known	....	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	-	-
Total	....	64	79

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.G. MacArthur,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector  
for the year 1942.

Mr. F. Metcalfe, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I.,  
(Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor  
and Certified Meat Inspector).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report of the sanitary inspection in the area for the year 1942.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Adverse analyses were found of a small private village supply, derived from springs collected into service tanks. The tanks were cleaned out but the water shewed no improvement. It was proposed for the Council's Water Engineer to examine the springs and explore the position for improving the supply.

16 inspections were made regarding water supplies and 6 samples were submitted for analysis.

There were no extensions of the Council's mains during the year, supplies were afforded to Contractors engaged on aerodrome construction, causing in some cases complaints from local householders of shortage owing to the insufficiency of the supply for this purpose besides household needs.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewage tanks and ditches which serve most of the villages in the area received periodical attention so as to prevent nuisance.

Sewers had to be taken up, repaired and relaid in Carlton Miniott, Sessay and South Otterington, on account of blockages in two cases and in the latter village to remedy nuisance from sewage pollution. Three manholes were provided.

New drainage works were provided at four dwelling houses where bathrooms and/or Water Closets were installed.

Public Cleansing.

The Council undertake the collection, removal and disposal of household refuse and the emptying of cesspools in Thirsk and Sowerby, the work being carried out by direct labour, comprising one Karrier Collecting Vehicle, a driver and 3 loaders for all work other than the emptying of closet receptacles and cesspools, for which team labour is hired.

Household refuse other than liquid filth is disposed of by tipping.

The Council employees also sweep up after the weekly Monday Market.

In addition the Council undertake the collection, removal and disposal of household refuse in the parish of Langthorpe, this parish had hitherto been scavenged by contract, but there was difficulty in obtaining Contractors and the work had to be taken over by the Council employees.

During the year the parish of Carlton Miniott was included in the Council's collecting area, the work being also carried out by direct labour.

The contents of all receptacles other than cesspools is tipped. The filth from cesspools is disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes.

Dustbins and closet movable receptacles are emptied once weekly, fixed receptacles monthly and cesspools bi-annually.



## Salvage.

At the commencement of the year the Council's village dump scheme came into operation, and Monthly collections of sorted Salvage were made from 41 depots covering villages in the Council's area and that of the Wath Rural area adjoining.

Collections were made by a separate Salvage Staff comprising driver for Ford Vehicle and 2 women employees, who also cleared local dumps, made a weekly collection of Salvage from shop premises and prepared and put onto rail baled paper, tins etc.

Local house to house collections were made by a hired horse and cart, also by the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, ensuring that all householders were covered and the Salvage collected in a reasonably sorted state so as to avoid the expense of further sorting at the main depot.

Through these arrangements a monthly yield of some 25 tons of general Salvage was obtained, averaging about £93 per month in sales.

Collecting costs were however high, wages alone averaging £65 per month, and although the Council's Salvage Scheme resulted in a turn over from sales of over £1,000 during the year, there would be little, if any profit.

Collecting costs in a rural area must be proportionally higher than in a town owing to the larger area to be covered and the special arrangements required for collecting the material, which in a town would be done along with the Public Cleansing work. Further, better prices would be obtainable for the collected Salvage in the larger towns nearer the Mills, so increasing the value of total sales and providing for a larger margin against expenses.

But profit or loss, it is the Council's duty to collect the stuff (particularly waste paper, metal, bones and rags) and the Council's efforts of the year have been particularly good for a Rural Area and on a population value compare creditably with many of the larger areas. The total tonnage collected during the year was 300 tons, which included approx 129 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of waste paper baled and put onto rail, also 116 loose small tins put onto rail by our Salvage Staff.

The total mileage covered by our Ford collecting vehicle during the year was 5658 miles.

The kinds and weights of Salvage collected and sold during the year were:-

	Tons.	Cwts.
Waste paper	129	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mixed scrap	15	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Loose tins	116	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Non-ferrous metals		16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Textiles	11	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bones	4	4
Bottles & Jars & broken white glass	22	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total Inspections made during the year	552
Total re-inspections made during the year	148
Inspections of houses (Public Health & Housing Acts)	6
Visits to Abattoir, Northallerton for inspection of meat	11
Inspections of meat - Butchers premises	6
Inspections re other foods	25
Visits re emergency slaughterings	2
Inspections of farms and dairy premises	42
Inspections re Vermin infested premises	8
Inspections re infectious diseases	8
Inspections re Council Houses	125
Inspections re Building Byelaws	16
Inspections re Scavenging	8
Inspections re Schools	1
Inspections re Drains, Sewers and Sewage	43

Visits re Petroleum Acts	2
Visits re Water Supplies	16
Visits re Salvage	150
Visits re War Damage	2
Visits re Fuel & Lighting	13
Visits re premises infested with rats or mico	4
Visits re Railings	12

Number of Nuisances dealt with	56
Number of premises disinfected	

Body Lice	3)	
Bugs	2)	7
Rats & Mico	2)	

Number of Water Samples submitted for Analysis	6
Number of drains tested	2

#### Notices etc.

Informal notices to owners or occupiers	25
Informal notices complied with	14
Statutory Notices to owners	6
Statutory Notices complied with	5
Number of letters sent out	667

Shops	No action
Smoke abatoment	No action
Swimming baths	Nono

Eradification of Bed Bugs - Action taken was regarding lice infested Contractors Camps affecting both establishments and personnel. Blankets and clothing were subjected to steam disinfection by arrangements made with either the Ripon or Northallerton Pool Law Authorities and the verminous persons were in some cases sent in for baths. The hutments were sprayed out with liquid disinfectant and thoroughly cleansed before re-occupation.

2 Bug infested dwelling houses were cleared of vermin by spraying and gaseous insecticide.

Housing	No action taken.
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#### New Buildings.

No plans were submitted for the erection of or improved accommodation to dwelling houses during the year. The only new erection of any consequence was the Forestry Camp at Boltby.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

During the year 13 persons were registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, as wholesale Producers of Milk.

There is no pasteurised milk produced or sold in the area.

The County Council issue licences and supervise conditions regarding premises producing a graded milk.

During the year 42 visits were made to cowshed premises and information given regarding reconstructional work where required.

The Milk Testing Scheme of bulk supplies received at the Northallerton Dairy came into operation during the year, 16 samples were reported as not up to the Market Standard. The respective premises were visited and advice given for improving dairying conditions generally. In some cases it was believed that dirty churns were the cause of the samples not being found up to standard.



## Meat and other Foods.

Meat Supply. - All animals intended for food are slaughtered at the Government Abattoir, Northallerton. To assist Northallerton Urban Authority in their Meat Inspection duties, I attended part time one day each week as other duties allowed.

During the year, 11 visits were made and 201 carcasses were examined.

Several visits were also made to butchers shops following complaints of meat being received from the Abattoir in an unsound or bruised condition and unsaleable.

In some instances the complaints were justified and the meat subsequently replaced.

During the hot months of the year, the haulage of carcasses to the butchers in Thirsk besides those in the surrounding villages did not improve the condition of the meat. If abattoirs are to continue after the war it is to be hoped that ample space will be allowed for the slaughtering of the animals, with separate airy rooms for the proper setting of the carcasses before dispatch to the respective butchers.

The provision of an abattoir in an area is desirable to enable Meat Inspection to be properly carried out, but it is considered that the abattoir should be within reasonable distance of the butchers so that there is no undue hardship in conveyance of the live animals, nor damage to the carcasses in conveying any long distances.

## Other Foods.

During the year the following foods have been condemned as unsound:-

Luncheon Meat Nine 6lb. tins. Sausages One 24oz. tin.  
Pork and Beans 16 cases. Liquid Milk 22 cases. Pilchards Five One lb. tins. Corned Beef Hash Six 1 lb. tins.  
Chopped Ham One 6 lb tin. Chef Peas 2 tins. Also 3 stones Apples, 14 lbs. Sausages and 105 lbs. Bacon.

Eleven pounds of slightly rancid butter was by arrangements with the Food Executive Officer passed to a Baker for immediate use, similarly 48 tins of liquid milk of which the tins were damaged and/or rusty and considered totally unsuitable for individual sale over the counter, were disposed of through a local canteen.

Condemned tins of food were in other cases passed to pig or poultry keepers so as to avoid wastage of food, where possible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

